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Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM (1162)

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 SCS-06 SSO-00 INR-10 INRE-00 NCT-02 CA-01
PA-01 SY-05 H-01 CCO-00 OC-06 SVC-00 L-03 STE-00
SS-15 /066 W
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O 210914Z NOV 78
FM JCS WASHINGTON OC//J3//
TO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ
CINCMAC SCOTT AFB IL
USCINCRED MACDILL AFB FL
INFO SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCAD PETERSON AFB CO
USCINCAFRED LANGLEY AFB VA
SECSTATE WASHINGTON OC
WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC//SITROOM//
CINCSAC OFFUTT AFB NE
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD
AMEMB GEORGETOWN GY
21AF OC MCGUIRE AFB NJ
AFMPC RANDOLPH AFB TX//MPCCM/

436 ABG DOVER AFB DE//SVM//
436MAW DOVER AFB DE
USCINCARRED FT MCPHERSON GA
ARRS SCOTT AFB IL//CC//
CSA WASHINGTON DC
CNO WASHINGTON DC
CSAF WASHINGTON DC
CMC WASHINGTON DC
COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON OC

C O N F I D E N T I A L 1567
SUBJ: JCS/SITREP 001/210600Z NOV 78
1. (C) SITUATION.
ON SCENE REPORTS FROM GUYANA INDICATE THAT 405 AMERICANS, 100 OF WHICH ARE CHILDREN, ARE DEAD. OPERATIONS TO THIS TIME HAVE BEEN STAGING OUT OF MATTHEW'S RIDGE INSTALLATION, 20 MILES SOUTHWEST OF KAITUMA AIRFIELD. MATTHEW'S RIDGE AIRFIELD IS REPORTED TO HAVE A 4,500 FOOT HARD PACKED SURFACE RUNWAY AND CAN PROBABLY HANDLE C-130 AIRCRAFT. PORT KAITUMA AIRFIELD IS LOCATED NEAR JONESTOWN, BUT ITS REPORTED 900 FOOT LOOSE SURFACE RUNWAY CAN

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HANDLE ONLY VERY SMALL AIRCRAFT OF THE TWIN OTTER TYPE. BOTH AIRFIELDS ARE EQUIPPED FOR DAYLIGHT OPERATIONS ONLY. THE ROADS IN THE AREA ARE DIRT AND PASSABLE ONLY BY 4-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES DURING THE RAINY SEASON WHICH BEGINS IN LATE NOVEMBER. GOG FORCES BEGAN ARRIVING AT MATTHEW'S RIDGE FROM GEORGETOWN BY AIRCRAFT SUNDAY, 19 NOV 78. THE REPORTED TOTAL GUYANESE FORCE IN THE AREA NOW NUMBERS APPROXIMATELY 110 MEN. TRAVEL BY GOVERNMENT FORCES IS CURRENTLY BEING HINDERED BY HEAVY RAIN. THE US EMBASSEY/COMMUNICATIONS TEAM SENT FROM PANAMA REACHED JONESTOWN ON THE 20TH TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT. INFORMATION FOLLOWING THE MURDER OF CONGRESSMAN RYAN AND FOUR OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY INDICATES THAT MEMBERS OF THE FANATICAL RELIGIOUS GROUP BEGAN COMMITTING SUICIDE WHILE OTHER ARMED MEMBERS SHOT THOSE UNWILLING TO COMMIT SUICIDE. AT 1700 HOURS LOCAL 20 NOV THE LOCAL POLICE COMMISSIONER INFORMED THE US EMBASSEY THAT PEOPLE'S TEMPLE LEADER JAMES JONES, HIS WIFE, SON, AND 11 MEMBERS OF HIS BODYGUARD WERE IDENTIFIED AMONG THE DEAD AT JONESTOWN. IT IS BELIEVED THAT MANY OF THE CULT'S MEMBERS WHO FLED THE SUICIDE AND MURDER SCENE ARE CURRENTLY WANDERING IN THE HEAVY JUNGLE SURROUNDING JONESTOWN.

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2. (C) FRIENDLY OPERATIONS: A CHRONOLOGY OF OPERATING FORCES:
A. JCS EXECUTE ORDER 190526Z NOV 78 TO MAC/SOUTHCOM AUTHORIZED MEDEVAC AIRCRAFT AND PERSONNEL TO GEORGETOWN.
B. ON 19 NOV 78 JCS APPROVED ONE C-141 AIRCRAFT WITH PATHOLOGIST. AIRCRAFT LANDED AT GEORGETOWN AT 191255Z NOV 78.
C. JCS 191559Z NOV 78 APPROVED C-130 AIRCRAFT TO DEPLOY FROM CANAL ZONE TO GEORGETOWN WITH EMBASSEY AUGMENTATION AND SOUTHCOM COMMUNICATIONS TEAM.
D. AT 191947Z NOV 78 JCS APPROVED POSITIONING OF SECOND MEDEVAC C-141 AT GEORGETOWN.
E. C-130 AIRCRAFT DEPARTED GEORGETOWN AT 200613Z NOV 78 WITH RELATIVIES OF JONESTOWN RESIDENTS ON BOARD.
F. JCS CRISIS ACTION TEAM ACTIVATED AT 201330Z NOV 78.
G. SECOND MEDEVAC C-141 ARRIVED GEORGETOWN AT 201445Z NOV 78.
H. JCS EXECUTE ORDER 210221Z NOV 78 ACTIVATED THE JTF AND DEPLOYS FORCES TO GUYANA TO ASSUME TRANSFER AND CUSTODY OF DECEASED AND RETURN REMAINS TO DOVER AFB.
I. THE REMAINS OF REP RYAN AND THREE OTHER MURDERED MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY WERE FLOWN FROM GEORGETOWN ON A C-141 AND ARRIVED CHARLESTON AT 210538Z NOV 78. FURTHER MOVEMENT TO CONUS

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FUNERAL LOCATION WILL COMMENCE AT 219830Z NOV 78.
3. (C) GENERAL INFORMATION:
A. THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS REQUESTED PRIORITY BE GIVEN TO EARLY ARRIVAL OF THE GRAVES REGISTRATION TEAMS AND THE USCINCSO U-21 AIRCRAFT TO ASSIST IN ON-GOING ACTIONS.
B. SUITABILITY OF MATTHEW'S RIDGE FOR C-130 USE HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED.
GDS 86

EOT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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